

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 15-17, and 19-22 are currently pending in the present application. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 14 amended claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, and added new claims 20-21. Claims 10 and 18 were cancelled in the previously filed response. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following statements.

Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by the proposed amendments to the claims. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and in the originally filed claims.

Claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Casey (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,351). Applicants respectfully submit that Casey fails to teach all of the limitations of the pending claims.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

An actuator controller for use in an actuator assembly, the actuator controller comprising:

- a processor for controlling an actuator associated with the actuator controller;
- a communication device in communication with said processor, said communication device receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of said actuator from a master controller, said communication device capable of communicating in multiple languages defined by the master controller;
- a memory accessible by said processor; and

said processor accessing said memory to determine if a language identifier parameter is stored in said memory, said processor determining a language of said at least one control command based on said language identifier parameter if said language identifier parameter is stored in said memory, said processor determining said language of said control command in response to communication characteristics of said control command if said language identifier parameter is not stored in said memory.

Referring to Casey, a vehicle communication circuit and method are disclosed. Casey, however, does not provide any teaching of a communication device receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of an actuator from a master controller, as recited in claim 1. Further, Casey does not provide any teaching of a processor accessing a memory to determine if a language identifier parameter is stored in the memory, as recited in claim 1. Moreover, Casey does not provide any teaching of the processor determining the language of the at least one control command based on the language identifier parameter if the language identifier parameter is stored in the memory, as recited in claim 1. In addition, Casey does not provide any teaching of the processor determining the language of the control command in response to communication characteristics of the control command if the language identifier parameter is not stored in the memory, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Casey.

Independent claim 13, as amended, recites:

A method of automatically selecting a language for use with an actuator controller, the method comprising:

receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of an actuator from a master controller;

determining a language of the control command;

and retrieving a control program corresponding to said language;

wherein the step of determining said language includes:

accessing a memory to determine if an language identifier parameter is stored in said memory;

determining said language of the control command based on said language identifier parameter if said language identifier parameter is stored in said memory; and

determining said language in response to communication characteristics of said control command if said language identifier parameter is not stored in said memory.

Referring to Casey, a vehicle communication circuit and method are disclosed. Casey, however, does not provide any teaching of receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of an actuator from a master controller, as recited in claim 13. Further, Casey does not provide any teaching of accessing a memory to determine if a language identifier parameter is stored in the memory, as recited in claim 13. Moreover, Casey does not provide any teaching of determining the language of the control command based on the language identifier parameter if the language identifier parameter is stored in the memory, as recited in claim 13. In addition, Casey does not provide any teaching of determining the language in response to communication characteristics of the control command if the language identifier parameter is not stored in the memory, as recited in claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 is believed to be allowable over Casey.

In addition, claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15-17, 19 that depend directly or indirectly from one of claims 1 and 13, are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 13.

Independent claim 12, as amended, recites:

An actuator controller for use in an actuator assembly, the actuator controller comprising:

a processor for controlling an actuator associated with the actuator controller;

a communication device in communication with said processor, said communication device receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of said actuator from a master controller, said communication device capable of communicating in multiple languages defined by said master controller; and,

a memory accessible by said processor,

said processor being configured to determine a language of the control command based on either a language identifier parameter stored in said memory or a communication characteristic of said control command, said processor retrieving a control program from said memory corresponding to said language if said processor determines said language, said processor generating a default command position for said actuator upon failing to determine said language.

Casey, however, does not provide any teaching of a communication device receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of an actuator from a master controller, as recited in claim 12. Further, Casey does not provide any teaching of a processor retrieving a control program from a memory corresponding to the language of the control command if the processor determines the language, as recited in claim 12. Further, Casey does not provide any teaching of the processor generating a default command position for the actuator upon failing to determine the language, as recited in claim 12. Accordingly, claim 12 is believed to be allowable over Casey.

Independent claim 20, as amended, recites:

A method of automatically selecting a language for use with an actuator controller, the method comprising:

receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of an actuator from a master controller;

attempting to determine a language of the control command based on either a language identifier parameter stored in a memory or a communication characteristic of said control command;

retrieving a control program from the memory corresponding to said language if said language is determined; and

generating a default command position for said actuator upon failing to determine said language.

Casey, however, does not provide any teaching of a communication device receiving at least one control command indicative of a commanded operational position of an actuator from a master controller, as recited in claim 20. Further, Casey does not provide any teaching of retrieving a control program from a memory corresponding to the language if the language is determined, as recited in claim 20. Moreover, Casey does not provide any teaching of generating a default command position for said actuator upon failing to determine said language, as recited in claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 is believed to be allowable over Casey.

Applicants have added dependent claims 21 and 22 to claim particular aspects of the present invention. Support for these claims can be found within the specification and the original claims. Applicants submit that no new subject matter has been added by claims 21 and 22. Claims 21 and 22 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons recited above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130 maintained by applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: John F. Buckert
John F. Buckert
Registration No. 44,572

Date: August 19, 2004
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
248-524-2300 ext. 3109
248-524-2700 (fax)